

THE
TREATISE

concerning the
Cup, showing the
manner

of using it.

Written in Latin by
PRINCEPS of the
in consideration of a
sample for such by the
founder of the
Cup.

Translated into English by ROBERT
WHITE, Master of Arts
Oxford.

1644

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THE
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OF
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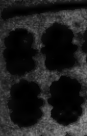
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The Translators Preface
to the Reader.



Having finished my
Translation of the
Popular errors, or
the errors of the peo-
ple in matter of Phy-
sicke, being a learned
Treatise, lately set
forth in Latine by Dr. PRIMROSE the
Physitian, my very good Friend, it plea-
sed my aforesaid Author to write some-
thing touching the Antimoniall Cup,
which is now adayes in such frequent use,
and so much admired by some, and to
give it to me to translate into into Eng-
lish, to be annexed to the former Trea-
tise, being an Errour as common and
grosse as any other; But seeing that the
A 2 impres-


To the Reader.

Impression of the aforesaid Treatise is
for some reasons procrastinated for a
while, it was thought convenient at
the request of some Friends, to substract
this from the other, and to set it forth in
a small Pamphlet by it selfe, which
now thou hast, being never till now in
Print; The other wanting nothing but
the Printers art, shall as soone as may
be, be Pressed to doe thee service, meane
while accept of this lovingly, expect the
other patiently, as it is tendered wil-
lingly by him, who is thine
in any friendly
office.

RO: WITTIE.



A
TREATISE
CONCERNING THE
ANTIMONIAL Cup,
*shewing the abuse
thereof.*

 Here is come not long
since into use a Cup
made of the *Regulus* of
Antimonie, so called by
Alchymists, which is
sold at a very high rate, and is repor-
ted to be good for many things, and
diseases, both by him that makes it,
and by the people who are alwayes
cager

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eager in their pursuit after Novelties, and it is thought by the people to be a thing of great value, and heretofore not knowne by Physicians; when neverthelesse, it is very well knowne of all them that have any skill in the Chymicks; for the way of making the *Regulus* out of *Antimonie*, is very easie, ordinary, and antient. But that wee may explicate to the people this error so pernicious, wee will first speake of the Cup it selfe, and then of its force. Now the Cup hath not its vertue from the artificiall forme thereof; for so any Cup made of Silver or Gold should doe the same. But it hath all its vertue from the *Antimonie*: Now they that pry into the nature of Minerals and Metals, are of opinion that *Antimonie* doth consist of crude and very impure Sulphur, *Mercury*, and *Arsenicke*: And therefore it is so contrary to our nature, that after what manner soever it

Of the Antimoniall Cup.

it be prepared and corrected, it doth even in the least quantity that may be given, offer great violence to the intralls, and doth retaine its malignant quality, which can scarce be taken away by any infusions. If by chance some man of a strong constitution be able to indure the force thereof, hee expels it upwards and downwards, with abundance of humours; but them that are weake, and such as doe vomit hardly it doth wonderfully gripe and torment; For howsoever it be prepared, it never layes aside its malignant and deadly quality.

Hence many grave Physicians, as *Fernelius*, *Riolanus*, *Gesnerus*, and the whole Colledge of Physicians at Paris, doe utterly dislike the internall use thereof, in respect of its deadly quality too hurtfull to Nature. Nevertheless to satisfie the people, we will grant, that it may safely be used,

so

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so it be rightly prepared, and directly used. I know it hath beene diversly assayed to be prepared by the art of the *Alchimists*, that though not altogether, yet at least in some measure the malignitie thereof might be abated, but that art is not yet fully found out, which can quite take away the force of that Medicament.

Now the common and more ordinary preparations, which are to be sold even in all shops, are the *regulus* of *Antimonie*, of which the aforesaid Cup is made; The glasse of *Antimonie*, which the people call *Stibium*, whereas *Stibium* is indeed the true name of *Antimonie* it selfe, and of this Glasse, not of the *Regulus* ought this Cup to be made, saith *Sennertus* in his *Institutions*, and *Hartmannus* in his notes upon *Crollius*. Moreover there are made of it *Crocus metal-lorum*, or the Saffron of metals; *Pulvis emeticus*, *Mercurius vita*, a Tincture, and an Oyle.

And

Of the Antimonial Cup.

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And all these preparations are indued with one & the same quality; to wit, vomiting and Purging, w^{ch} manifests that in none of the aforesaid preparations was the deadlineffe of the Antimony taken away. Now seeing that in all things, yea even in the worst of all there are some degrees of pravitie, the people must know that in all Minerals, that preparation is accounted the best, and least dangerous, in which the forme of the Metall is lost; for then there is made a greater separation of the pure from the impure; and therefore all Alchymists doe endeavour so to dissolve Gold, a harmlesse Medicament in it selfe, that the forme of the Metall being layd aside it may be made *potable*, and they doe not approve of any dissolution thereof, in which it can returne to its owne nature; which is indeed much more true of Minerals that are of a mischievous nature. It is therefore to be

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noted

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noted that that Antimonie which we call crude, to wit, unprepared at all, is of no force to move the body; and therefore the Antients who were ignorant of Chymicall art, knew no inward use thereof. Now the first and easiest preparation of all, is that, which we call the *Regulus*, in which the forme of the Mettall is not taken away, but doth melt into a certaine forme of Lead. Hence *Dioscorides* saith, that Antimonie melted turnes to Lead, having some light knowledge of that *Regulus*, for it is made of it being melted onely, and so a little refined, and it doth retaine all the malignity of the Antimonie, which layd as it were asleepe before, under the earthy excrement. This doe Mettall-men use, and mixe in Gunnes, Bells, and other the like engines: but seeing it doth yet possesse all the naughty and mischievous qualities of Antimonie, it must necessarily

ily follow, that the Cup made of it is most dangerous. Therefore the best Alchymists have quite abandoned it from any use in Physicke, save that by a further preparation may be extracted out of this *Regulus* the glasse of Antimonie, and many other such things farre better then the *Regulus* it selfe. Wherefore some instead thereof have used the glasse of Antimonie, as did frequently that most excellent Physitian *Matthiolus*, the people call it *Stibium*, and are sore afraid of it, whereas indeed it ought to be preferred before the *regulus*. Neverthelesse *Quercitanus*, *Hartman*, and some others of principall note among the Alchymists, who doe highly extoll the vertue of Antimonie, doe thinke this preparation of the Glasse also unsafe, in respect of the mixture of impure Sulphur, which is not yet taken away. And therefore waving those two as not

safe, they doe familiarly use the *Crocus*, or *Hepar Antimonij*, Saffron or liver of Antimony; *Pulvis emeticus*, the vomiting powder; and *Mercurius vitae*, Mercury of the life: Which preparations the Colledge of Physitians at *London* hath inserted in their dispensatory, and there is almost no shop, in which both the substance and infusion of them is not to be sold. From whence they that doe so much extoll this Cup, may gather, that they use a pernicious and dangerous remedy, whereas the same much better prepared is every where obvious, and to be sold, yet at a very easie rate.

Of the force of the Cup.

AS touching the force of the Cup, it doth not gently but mightily provoke vomit & stools; now every vomit although it bee caused by the most gentle Medicines of all, is nevertheless alwaies more harsh to Nature the any Purgatiō by $\frac{1}{2}$ inferior parts, because the stomacke was not made for expulsion, but for reception; for it is one of the noble parts, and of exquisite sence, and hath a very great sympathy with the Braine and the heart, in so much as when it is affected, the people thinke and complaine that their heart akes. It is therefore not good to straine such a noble part with such a violent medicine. But besides, a Vomit doth offer much violence to the strength of the whole Body, straines the Head, braine, muscles of the belly, the breast, and

To *Of the Antimoniall Cup.*

and all the intrailles which are contained in the lower belly, and sometimes in grosse bodies breakes the veynes, and lets out the blood. Wherefore if we must not use other purging Medicines, but with a great deale of care and premeditation, much lesse Vomitories, for of all evacuations a Vomit is the most grievous and dan-

te, Mercury of the life : Which preparations the Colledge of Physitians at *London* hath inserted in their dispensatory, and there is almost no shop, in which both the substance and infusion of *phlegm* is not to be sold. From whence they that doe so much extoll this Cup, may gather, that they use a pernicious and dangerous remedy, whereas the same much better prepared is every where obvious, and to be sold, yet at a very easie rate.

troubled with the inflammation, or paine in the Midriffe. *Secondly*, the time of the yeare is to be considered; for it is not convenient at every time of the yeare. *Thirdly*, the nature of Diseases; for in some diseases it doth more hurt then good, and in those wherein it may doe good, it must not yet be alwayes used, and therefore

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and all the intrailles which are contained in the lower belly, and sometimes in grosse bodies breakes the veynes, and lets out the blood. Wherefore if we must not use other purging Medicines, but with a great deale of care and premeditation, much lesse Vomitories; for of all evacuations a Vomit is the most grievous and dangerous. And therefore many things are to be regarded in the provoking of vomit. *First*, the nature of the patient, and his aptnesse or difficulty for vomiting, for in them that vomit hardly, there is a great deale of danger, although they be sicke of a disease, which might be cured by vomit. Such are they that are fat, those that are strait breasted, many slender persons, who have weake stomachs, such are subject to a Cough, or difficulty of breathing, which have tumours or Vicers in their breasts, they that have weake heads and eyes, and such as are trou-

troubled with the inflammation, or paine in the Midriffe. *Secondly*, the time of the yeare is to be considered; for it is not convenient at every time of the yeare. *Thirdly*, the nature of Diseases; for in some diseases it doth more hurt then good, and in those wherein it may doe good, it must not yet be alwayes used; and therefore the founder of the Cup is mistaken, when hee saith, that the Cup is good for all the Diseases, which stand in need of Purging, as we shall manifest afterwards. *Fourthly*, the constitution of Diseases; for it cannot be administered at all times of diseases without danger to the patient: The Physician must consider in all Evacuations the beginning, increasing, state of the Disease, much more in a Vomit. *Fifthly*, great care is to be had of preparing the body and the humours, and many things are to be regarded both before the vomit, and in the very act
of

of vomiting, which are not to be handled in this place. So as there is no evacuation, which requires so much consideration, as that which is done by vomit. Now seeing these things can be knowne onely by a Physitian, and that not every one, but by a very learned and skilfull man, I cannot but wonder at the adventurous rashnesse of some men, yea and women, who being unread in the rules of Physicke, grossely ignorant both of Diseases and their causes, their times, and not knowing the method of Curing, dare neverthelesse vex and torment such a noble subject as Mans body with variety of Medicines; *Secondly*, perswade unto vomit, the most dangerous and difficult evacuation of all other; *Thirdly*, provoke it with a Minerall, which is most contrary to Nature; *Fourthly*, to doe it with *Antimonie*, then which no Minerall is more churlish; and *lastly*, to use

use that preparation of it, which is the very worst of all. Not that I doe altogether dislike the use of Antimonic, for I have often used it with good successe, but better prepared. But especially the founder of the Cup is to be blamed, for selling such a cheap medicine at so deare a rate, the right use whereof he doth neither teach the people, nor I thinke he himselfe knowes: And therefore I have known many, who by taking the infusion of it, haue beene grievously tormented, and some that have dyed, who despising the counsell of Physitians have preposterously used it. For Physicke although it be in its owne nature very good, is the hand of God, but like a sword in the hand of a mad-man, as we have said in another place out of *Herophilus*, in our Popular Errors.

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*Of the Founder of the Cup, and the
Authours cited by him.*

AS for the Founder of the Cup,
he professes himselfe a Minister,
and Preacher of Gods Word, that is,
a man that will scorne to deceive any
body; and will not meddle beyond
his knowledge, and therefore without
question hee hath brought us a very
Soveraigne medicine, which he made
conscience to conceale any further,
though before he was borne, the
thing was in use in another name, as
appeares by those Authours whom
he doth cite for the patronizing of
his gaintes, thought they are men of
small note and hardly worth, to be
cited. *First*, he hath a great commen-
dation of the Antimonie it selfe, ex-
tolling it aboue all medicines in the
world; So doe they that commend
aurum potable, &c. to all the Alchymists

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Of the Antimoniall Cup. 19

ill this Minister have preferred the Gold before it. It is (saith he) a mineral (according to Paracelsus) consisting of Mercury, Sulphur and salt; So is my glove according to the said Paracelsus. It was first discovered (saith he) by Geber King of Arabia; and yet Dioscorides, Galen, Hippocrates, and ancienter Authors before Geber doe speake of it; And he called it *Magnesia*, as if Geber spake Latine, but *Quercetanus* calls it so indeed. Secondly, amongst all the medicines that are prepared out of this mineral, he disclaims from all except the *Regulus*, in which he shewes his weaknesse, for the *Regulus* is the weakest, easiest, and easiest preparation of all others; therefore he adds, and what may be conveniently prepared out of the same; and that I like well, for out of the *Regulus* may be drawne the flowers, the glasse of Antimonie, the *Crocus metallor*, and many other preparations;

ons; and herein I adhere to the authority of *Bornettus*, and *Mylius*, cited by him; who doe not say, that it is to be used in Physicke, but that it is the chiefest exmination of Gold, and the true matter of all Flowers, and medicinall tinctures contained within *Antimony*, which is true; for the flowers & other *Antimoniall* extractions must be properly drawne out of the *regulus*, & the worst of them is better then the *regulus* it self: Then he brings in *Paracelsus* with the ticks of *Oriental* *Starre of Naturall, Spagiricall, and Mag-*
neticall light and knowledge. Now I am sure no learned and honest man will approve of such an illiterate man as *Paracelsus* was, approving and practising Magicall arts, which he calls the *Syrups and electuaries of the Diuell*. But let us heare what he sayes; In his Booke *De vita longa*, pag. 167. cited by this Writer, not a word of the Cup, but onely of the praises of *Antimonie*,

Of the Antimoniall Cup. 21

as *Alchymists* use to doe, that is, beyond the deserts thereof, and that it cures the *Leprosie*, which notwithstanding *Paracelsus* never performed therewithall, but howsoever he never used the *Regulus*, or the Cup, but hath many better preparations of *Antimonie* then that Cup is, as appeares by the next authority cited by him out of his 6. Booke, Pag. 22. Where he attributes all these vertues unto the quintessence of *Antimonie*, the *Regulus* being not the essence of it, but amongst all preparations the coursest and unsafest; and all the passages alledged out of *Paracelsus* doe intimate no more, but onely that *Antimony* is an excellent Medicine, that cures (saith he) the *Leprosie*, *Cicatrices*, besides many other diseases; but for these two I am sure it is false, for neither by the Cup, nor by any other *antimoniall* Preparation can it be performed. And I beleeve *Paracelsus* spake hec knew

not what, when he saith, *As that Antimony refined Gold, so by the same reason it purifies the Body of man.* He must bee voyd of reason, who will thinke this comparisson true and right, as if there were the same reason for Gold a Minerall, having some convenience of Principles with another minerall, and the Body of man, with which it hath no convenience at all: For the same might be as well said of all Purging medicines, that cleanse the body of man from all its impurities; but howsoever the Cup is not the right preparation of it to give to cleanse Mans body. Hee brings a second authority of *Martinus Rulandus*, who calls his *Aqua-benedicta* the infusion of this Cup, which is absolutely false, and *Quercetanus*, *Libavius*, *Sennertus*, and *Hartmannus* upon *Crollius*, yea his owne Son *Rulandus* sayes otherwise; namely, that his *Aqua-benedicta* which he commendeth so much, was made of

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Antimony indeed, but not of the Cup, but of *Crocus metallar*, otherwise called *Hepar antimonij*, & liver of antimony, or some other better Preparation; as if he did say, that it was the infusion of this Cup, yet it is not to be used by every one, except they have the same knowledge & judgment, that *Rulandus* hath; neverthelesse he used other Medicines as bad as this, which he doth commend as much, as his *Extractum Esula*, which is absolutely preferred by him before all other medicines, and antimony it selfe, shewing that no Medicine is good for every body. But *Alchymists* have that property, to extoll things to the skies, but when they come to the tryall, they are found false, or else loose their vertues in other folks hands; As for example, that it cured the Frensie, it is false, for in the distillances of the head, vomiting is very hurtfull, by the consent of all Physicians: That it cured the Falling

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sicknesse, it were to be desired but it doth not prove so, except that comes from the stomacke, the head being onely affected by the Sympathy of the said stomacke. That it healeth Impostumes in the Lungs, and cured the Pleurisie it is most untrue; For breaking the impostumes in the lungs, if it be given when they are at maturity, perhaps it will, because of the great straining of the upper parts of the body, but another vomite may doe the like, if the man can beare it. The truth is, those that have impostumes in the Lungs are so short winded, that they cannot beare the straining of a vomit; but howsoever an Impostume to be broken, and to be healed are two severall things, a vomit may doe the former, but not the latter. Concerning the Pleurisie; the Physitian, that gives such a purging medicine, that workes upward as well as downward, in such a disease, is much

Of the Antimoniall Cup. 25

much to be blamed, for working against the rules of Physicke. *Quercetanus* is so bold in his *Pharmacopœa*, as to speake of such a Cure, but not in a right *Pleurisie*, but because that booke is full of lyes, I will say no more but this, namely, that neither he, nor *Rolandus* ever used the *Antimoniall* cup, or the *regulus* out of which it is made, nor that *Quercetanus* his *Aqua-benedicta* was made of it; for he himselfe sayes plainly the contrary. 3dly, He brings the book called *Basilica antimonij*, commending *Antimony* but not the Cup; And to shew how largely these *Alchymists* speake, hee sayes it cures the *French Pox*, *Leprosie*, *Gout*, and *Falling sicknesse*, wch never a one of them ever performed, and yet *Basilica* speaks of that preparation of *antimony* that provokes sweating, as well as of others. So I may say the like of *Crollius*, who commends the *Antimonie* but not the Cup, and so *Mylus*, and *Barnettus* who

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commends the *Antimonie* but not a word of the cup. As for *Mylius*, he is but a transcriber of other mens works & hath compiled a mighty great volume without any judgement word by word out of *Paracelsus*, *Quercetan* and others, and hath indifferently put in true or false, whatsoever he found written, so I will not give a straw for his opinion, when he commends the *antimony* against diseases, which none of them did ever cure. For *Bornettus*, I know him well, he wrote his booke, being very yong, and I do not thinke he beleeves, that the *French Pox*, and the *Leprosie* may be cured by those meanes. Thus I have sifted all the authorities of this man in the behalfe of his Cup, which prove onely that *Antimony* is an excellent medicine, powerfull in operation, and too powerfull in deed, but that the Cup is the pure essence of it, none of them say, nor will any man that hath any skill
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in *Chymistry* ever affirme. Besides he brings some Physicians living (and some very well known to me, but the greatest part I know not) who (as he saith) have approved his Cup: I will make a good interpretation of their judgement, for without question the infusion of his Cup will worke, and such bodies might be met withall, in which it hath so powerfully wrought that being able to beare it, they have received much good by it, but that they have said that his Cup was better and safer then other preparations of *Antimonie*, or then other purging Medicines, and that a woman having bought it, hath also gained knowledge when, and in what Diseases to apply it, I will not wrong their judgement so much as to beleeve it.

Of the vertues of the Cup.

NOW to come to the vertues of the Cup, he makes a great list of all

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all the Diseases for which it is good, naming almost all Diseases that have need of purging from Head to foot, without distinction of the severall causes of them, the Cup is good for them because it purges, and by the same reason all purging Medicines may doe the like, and are good for the same diseases; for Nature hath provided variety of remedies, some strong, some weaker, of all sorts, that the Physitian may chuse what he thinks most fit for his patient, for one same remedy, in the same disease is not fit for every one. When we reade the bookes of *Alchymists*, they commend other remedies as much as *Antimonie* for the same diseases. But let us a little consider some particular Diseases named in his *Pamphlet*, w^{ch} J doe except against; It cures perfectly the *French Pox*, the *Kings evil*, the *Falling sicknesse*, as he saith, in the 9, 10, and 13. th Mark, which is false; nay J say more
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it is a very grosse mistake, and rash boldnesse in him, or any man, to prescribe the infusion of this cup in the *Plague*, *small Poxe*, *spotted Fever*, and *Purples*, for all violent medicines that draw the venimous humours of these diseases within the body, which Nature doth expell to y circumference, doe worke against the rules of Art. It is also false that any vomit is good for the *Pleurisie*; and so I say the like of a *Consumption*: If the founder of this Cup had well knowne the nature of these diseases, he would never have said so. Indeed where nature hath need of purging or vomiting this cup may serve, observing all that is to be considered in the use of those evacuations; for we doe not deny that it will worke, but this we say, that it being the worst and vnsafest preparation of all others, it is better to use some other then it, and all those diseases that he brings experience for,

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(leaving out those that have been killed by it) might have been performed by other vomits, made out of the *antimony*, or other simples working the same effect.

Of the manner of using the Cup.

NOW the manner of using the cup shewes the weakenesse of the man, he bids to put the Cup into a pot, and cover it with liquor to be above the cup an inch or two, then to boyle it gently for two houres, & so to keepe it warme for twelve houres, then to take a cup full of it or more, & the quantity of his liquor is a piate of Wine for two, yet it workes better sayes he, if two or three cup-fuls be taken, and hee is bold to say, that it works without any violence, gives counsell if it should worke three or 4. dayes together, not to stop it, & in the end to beware of counter feitt Cups.

Here

Of the Antimoniall Cup. 31

Here are as many Errours as words;
First, it is needlesse to shape the *Regulus* into a cup, seeing the Wine is not to be infused in the cup, but the Cup in the wine in an earthen pot. Is not a little lumpe of the same *Regulus* without any particular shape, as good as a Cup of it? And if one doe steepe it, will it not thinke you infuse its vertue into the liquour, as well as the Cup, & best of all if it were in powder? But thus the *Regulus* had beene bought too cheape, but we must have it a cup or a Ring (forsooth) to make the people beleeve it is not an ordinary thing. *Secondly*, being thus prepared by boyling, makes the drink look so distastfully, and makes it to lose its vertue, so as if a Child hath need of halfe a pint, a strong man of two or three, as he sayes. Let the Reader goe to an *Apothecaries* Shop in any part of the Kingdome, there he may find a little *Stibium*, w^{ch} is *Antimony* in glasse,
of

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of this let him take sixe graines weight, let them steep closely in two or three spoonfuls of white wine, and it will be every whit as pure as it was without any taste, & it will worke as well, and more safely, but if you feare the *Stibium*, not without cause, take as much of the *Regulus* out of which he makes his cup, use it as I have said, and it will worke in as little quantity. Yea steepe the Cup in a quart of Wine close without any fire, for a fourthnight, give but two or three ounces of that Wine, and it will work with a better effect. *Thirdly*, that it works without any violence, it is not so, for I know many that have taken it, who have been grievously tormented with it, and this is common to all vomits, yea even when they are provoked by the strength of nature. *Fourthly*, it is a pernicious counsell to suffer a superpurgation, and Physicke to worke so long, if it happen well

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well in some strong bodies, it is not to be thought that it will doe so in every one. *The last*, to beware of counterfeit Cups, is to keepe the people continually bound to him; for (saith he) if it be broken, bring it to him in weight, and for Ten shillings he will give you a new one. This is the best tricks of all his booke, a pound of *antimony* unprepared is hardly worth above sixe-pence in the *Druggifters* Shop, for twelve pence or eightene-pence more, of that pound one may have halfe a pound and more of this *Regulus*, what the casting of it into a Cup is worth let any body judge, in very deed three cups of 4 or 5. ounces a piece, doe not stand the maker to above ten Shillings. Besides when the cup is broken, the vertues are not broken, the pieces being steeped doe retain the same vertue, and will worke the same effect, as when the Cup was whole. The metall then being so
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good cheape, and the preparation of it so easie, there is no great feare of counterfeit ones, for a counterfeit one is like to cost more, then a right one.

To conclude, I say, though this Cup should be so admirable, yet it is beyond the capacity of any that is not a Physitian; to adapte the right use of it to every person, for all Diseases, times, and places, as wee have said already, nor doe I thinke the Founder himselfe hath the full knowledge of these things.

FINIS.





Imprimatur,

April. 24.
1640.

T. W I K E S.



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